

Existing law requires the Dept. of Education to provide for the operation of residential schools for children with hearing impairments who are unable to be served through regular educational facilities. Specifies that such schools shall provide academic, vocational, and other related services as may be required. Provides that children shall be eligible for admission to such schools only after proper diagnosis and evaluation in accordance with certain procedures.

Existing law further requires that the Dept. of Education, in administering the Louisiana School for the Deaf, shall establish an admission policy to permit day or residential enrollment, when resources are sufficient, of children with hearing impairments who can be served through regular education facilities and who are ineligible for admission as specified above. Requires the Louisiana School for the Deaf to establish an annual enrollment deadline for admission to the school for qualified children and provides relative to procedures for admitting other children with hearing impairments after such deadline if sufficient resources are available.

Existing law provides relative to rules and regulations adopted by the department for the implementation of the provisions of existing law.

New law retains existing law and additionally provides for the applicability of existing law provisions to visually impaired children and to the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Amends R.S. 17:1946(B))